



CITY OF TUCSON



Ready to Protect
Proud to Serve

NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS WEEK

On **Tuesday April 10, 2012 at 5:30 PM**, the Mayor and Council will issue a proclamation recognizing **April 8-14**, as **National Public Safety Telecommunications Week**, and formally recognize personnel who have exhibited exemplary service throughout the last year.

Introduced to Congress in 1991 by the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International, **National Public Safety Telecommunications Week** is held during the second week in April each year. Public safety telecommunicators include 911 Operators, Police Service Operators, Fire and Emergency Medical Service Dispatchers and Police Dispatchers.

The term “9-1-1” is often associated with rapid emergency response, poise under pressure, aid and compassion in times of distress, and critical decision-making within seconds. Every day, thousands of people in our communities depend upon the skill, expertise, commitment and compassion of our Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Services dispatchers and call-takers. In Tucson and throughout this region, these individuals are indeed the ‘FIRST’ first-responders to citizens in distress. Annually, the Police Communications Division handles over 500,000 calls for service. These dedicated professionals are trained and prepared for the unexpected and unimaginable, and make the difference between life and death in many instances.

The week of April 8-14 is dedicated to public safety telecommunicators who aid in providing 911 emergency assistance to citizens everywhere. Specifically, we will honor emergency telecommunicators who work for the **Tucson Fire Department Communications Division** (who provide 911 Operator, Fire, and Emergency Medical Service dispatch services) and the **Tucson Police Department Communications Division** (who provide Police Service Operator and Police Dispatch services).

Please join us in recognizing and celebrating the dedicated service provided by Tucson’s telecommunicators. Members of the media are encouraged to schedule a visit to the Tucson Police Department’s Communications Division to meet some of the men and women who provide this invaluable service to our community. Please contact Communications Superintendent Tony Aeiltz or Communications Supervisor Lori Gallegos at 791-2563 to make arrangements for a media tour.

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For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.

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